



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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17 AUGUST 1965

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1. South Vietnam

In a propaganda broadcast, the Viet Cong have claimed credit for the bombing of the national police headquarters in Saigon. According to the broadcast, this was a memorial to the 20th anniversary of the 19 August uprising in Hanoi against the French.

The report from the US mission in Saigon summing up last week's actions shows an estimated 1,330 Viet Cong killed, the highest such estimate during any single week of the war. Two major actions, including that around Duc Co, contributed heavily to this.

According to the interrogation reports of some 68 Viet Cong who recently defected in the area of the northernmost I Corps, discontent and disillusionment are widespread in the ranks.

These defectors claim they were influenced by government psychological warfare operations, particularly airborne loudspeaker broadcasts made by a former Viet Cong political sergeant who had himself defected after being infiltrated from the north.

On 15 August, a Viet Cong rifle grenade was exploded over several South Vietnamese troops, causing symptoms like those caused by chemical riot control agents. Portions of the grenade are now being studied.

This is the first reported use by the Viet Cong of what may be a chemical agent, although the use of irritants has been reported before.

2. North Vietnam

Intercepts reveal that a Chinese jet flew today 25 miles over North Vietnam in reaction to a US recce flight, but did not engage.

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3. Dominican Republic

The rebel leadership continues to resist pressure to accept the solution proposed by the Organization of American States Committee.

Caamano has now called for a "united democratic front." The immediate object of the front would be to obtain the withdrawal of foreign troops. A longer term objective, however, would be to secure those fundamental goals of the revolution which, he has warned his followers, may not be achieved in negotiations.

Caamano's line here seems to echo the Dominican Communist Party, which has now indicated publicly that it will oppose the future provisional government and has called for a front to "rescue national sovereignty."

A UN Security Council meeting, requested by the USSR, will probably be held tomorrow.

4. Malaysia

More rumblings are being heard from the remaining members of the Malaysian federation. A political leader from Sabah--former British Borneo--is threatening to resign his post in the federal cabinet. He says his followers want to get out of Malaysia.

Somewhat similar sentiment is reported from Sarawak, which, along with Sabah, has been the main target of Sukarno's "confrontation" campaign. Important elements in both states feel they have been given second-class treatment by Malaysian leaders.

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5. Indonesia

Sukarno's speech today--entitled "Reach for the Stars"--was two and a half hours long instead of the usual three or four, but he reportedly looked in good health. Sukarno sprang no surprises, hewing to a line almost identical with that of the Indonesian Communist Party.

Because of Sukarno's castigation of the US for "aggression" in Vietnam, Ambassador Green has withheld US congratulations on the anniversary of Indonesia's independence.

Indonesia's withdrawal from the World Bank, forecast in the Brief of 4 August, was officially announced by the bank today.

6. Laos

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7. Kashmir

While the Indians mop up infiltrators inside Kashmir, new clashes have taken place between Indian and Pakistani forces arrayed along the Kashmir cease-fire line. This area was also the scene of fighting last June. Key points on the Pakistani side of the line overlook India's only road link between the capital of Kashmir and Ladakh, where Indian territory confronts Communist China.

8. Greece

The politicians continue to add and subtract parliamentary votes in search of a winning combination. Another large demonstration by Papandreou supporters was scheduled for today. Papandreou himself starts a tour of the countryside this weekend.

9. USSR

The cholera epidemic in Iran may have spread to the USSR.

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The area is apparently quarantined and civil passenger flights to it have been stopped. (Map)

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